By this Response, applicant elects Group I – claims 1 - 16, 22 - 37, 43, 49, 50, 52, 53, and 60 - 65, with traverse.

MPEP §§802.1 and 803 state that claims in an invention are subject to a restriction requirement if they are independent or distinct. For distinct inventions the criteria for a proper restriction requirement is that there must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required.

The Examiner noted that all three groups are classified in class 434. It is merely the subclass that is different. It is submitted that since all three Groups fall within the same class, but vary in subclass only, that this is not an undue burden to search.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

5/11/01

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